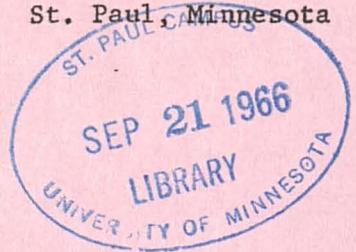


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Yard 'n' Garden



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PLANTING TULIPS AND DAFFODILS

Flowering bulbs can be the highlight of the garden in the spring if you plant them this fall. Tulips and daffodils are especially delightful in their broad selections of colors and flower types.

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Most bulbs need full sun or will tolerate some shade. They like a soil that is well drained and that has a medium level of fertility. These are the basic requirements for growing good quality blooms.

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Tulips and daffodils are planted during late September and October. Tulips may be planted until the time the ground freezes in the fall.

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When buying bulbs be sure to buy good quality. It's not necessary to buy the jumbo sizes. With the daffodils the double-nosed types are satisfactory. Always buy bulbs that will bloom at different times. For example, the Red Emperor tulips bloom the earliest, followed by the early singles, the cottage, the Darwin, the Breeder, the Parrot and, last, the peony-flower types.

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Plant tulips and daffodils from 6 to 8 inches deep, depending upon the soil type. If the soil is very heavy, 5 percent clay, they should be planted at the shallower depth. If the soil tends to be lighter and warmer, they should be planted to a depth of 7 to 8 inches.

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Avoid planting the bulbs close to the house on the southwest side. Usually during the latter part of winter the soil thaws in this location and the bulbs will come up before the danger of heavy freezes is past, with the result that the bulb may be killed.

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Tulips can be planted in small groupings of 7 to 9 bulbs or they can be planted in beds by themselves. The larger beds should be sketched on paper prior to the planting in the garden to assure the development of good design as well as to give you an estimate of the number of bulbs needed. Both tulips and daffodils should be mulched to a depth of 6 inches with marsh hay or clean straw for the winter to protect the soil from freezing and thawing.

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